

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ukita, (U.S. Patent 5,905,360, hereinafter “Ukita”). Claims 3, 18, and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hoffman et al., (U.S. Patent 5,869,950, hereinafter “Hoffman”). Claims 24-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Dunn et al., (U.S. Patent 6,239,579, hereinafter “Dunn”). Claim 31 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Clegg, (U.S. Patent 5,394,089, hereinafter “Clegg”). Claims 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoffman in view of Kumar, (U.S. Patent 6,615,118, hereinafter “Kumar”). Claims 20 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoffman in view of King, (U.S. Patent 5,659,240, hereinafter “King”). Claim 32 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Clegg in view of Ukita. Claims 5-9, 27, 29, and 30 are allowed. Claims 33-39 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. By the present Response, claims 31, 33, and 35 are amended. Claims 1-4, 18-21, 24-26, 32, and 34 are canceled. Upon entry of the amendments, claims 5-9, 27, 29-31, 33 and 35-39 will be pending in the present patent application. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are requested.

Objection to the Claims

Claims 33-39 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. However, the Examiner indicated that the subject matter of claims 32 and 34 was allowable. Similar language to that found in claims 32 and 34 has been added to the independent claim 31 by this Response. Claims 32 and 34 have been canceled. Accordingly, claims 33 and 35 are amended to depend appropriately from the amended independent claim 31. The independent claim 31, and the claims depending therefrom are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are requested.

Conclusion

In view of the remarks and amendments set forth above, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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29
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